

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00
L-03 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 CEQ-01
EPA-04 INT-05 SMI-01 DODE-00 OIC-02 AID-05 SOE-02
EB-08 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 /185 W

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R 031545Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7768
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, SENV, IWC-1
SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT ON 30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF IN-
TERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC), 26-30
JUNE

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS TAKEN BY IWC

DURING 30TH ANNUAL MEETING.

2. BOWHEAD WHALE - QUOTA FOR 1979, OF 24 LANDED RECOMMENDED BY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE. QUOTA COULD NOT BE AGREED UPON FOR STRIKES. PLENARY FINALLY ESTABLISHED 1979 QUOTA TO BE INCLUDED IN IWC SCHEDULE OF 18 LANDED OR 27 STRUCK WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST. US HAD REQUESTED HIGHER LIMITATIONS AND A DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME. ESKIMOS LEFT MEETING IN PROTEST AND STATED THEY WOULD NOT COMPLY. AT END OF MEETING, US REQUESTED A SMALL INCREASE IN 1978 QUOTA TO PROVIDE MORE WHALES FOR FALL HUNT. PLENARY AGREED TO REVISE 1978 QUOTA TO BE 14 WHALES LANDED OR 20 STRUCK. COMMISSION ALSO ADOPTED DECISION REITERATING REQUEST TO US AND CANADA TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT OF BOWHEAD AND BELUGA. IT WAS ALSO AGREED TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL GROUP OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR ABORIGINAL WHALING REGIME FOR ALL SUCH WHALING.

3. 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING - FOLLOWING ACCUSATIONS BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS THAT JAPAN HAD PRESSURED PANAMA TO REMOVE MORATORIUM PROPOSALS FROM AGENDA AND GOJ DENIALS OF THIS, PANAMA DID WITHDRAW MORATORIUM PROPOSALS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM ARGENTINA, CHAIRMAN RULED AGENDA ITEMS WITHDRAWN BY PROPOSING COUNTRY CANNOT BE REPROPOSED FOR 60 DAYS, SINCE RULES OF PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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CEDURE REQUIRE 60 DAYS NOTICE FOR AGENDA ITEMS OF ANNUAL MEETINGS.

4. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS AND PRESS - DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE HELD IN MEETING OF COMMISSIONER'S ONLY AND CONFIRMED BY PLENARY WITH NO DISCUSSION. ALL PLENARY SESSIONS AT 31ST ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO PRESS WITHOUT AUDIO OR VISUAL EQUIPMENT. ACCREDITED OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OFFICES IN MORE THAN THREE NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND SESSIONS OF PLENARY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

5. CHANGES TO NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE - SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO NWP WERE PRESENTED TO MEETING. IT WAS AGREED A MORE THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF SUCH CHANGES WAS NEEDED AND SPECIAL GROUP OF SCIENTISTS FROM AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA, CANADA, JAPAN, UK, USA, FAO, AND PERHAPS USSR, WAS ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND SCIENTIFIC IMPLICATIONS, AND TO REPORT TO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR.

6. NEW MANDATE FOR TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - THE 2-DAY

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT DEVELOPED
AND THE COMMISSION ADAPTED A NEW MANDATE AND RULE OF
PROCEDURE FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE. SUBSTANTIVE
CHANGES INCORPORATED IN THESE TWO PAPERS ARE MINIMAL,
BUT ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS SHOULD IMPROVE. STRONG
ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IS MAINTAINED.

7. GRAY WHALES - SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
THAT GRAY WHALES IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC SHOULD BE RE-
MOVED FROM PROTECTION STOCK CATEGORY AND PLACED INTO
THE SUSTAINED MANAGEMENT CATEGORY WAS ACCEPTED BY THE
COMMISSION. HOWEVER, THE CATCH QUOTA OF 178 WHALES MAY

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BE TAKEN BY OR FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ONLY. NO COMMERCIAL TAKING IS PERMITTED. US QUESTIONED ALL COMMISSIONERS WHETHER OR NOT THEY PLANNED TO COMMERCIALY TAKE GRAY WHALES. RESPONSE INDICATED NO COUNTRY HAS SUCH PLANS AND CANADA AND MEXICO WILL CONTINUE TOTAL PROTECTION FOR THESE ANIMALS WITHIN 200 MILES OF THEIR COAST.

8. NON-MEMBER WHALING NATIONS - CHILE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PERU AND SPAIN STATED INTENTIONS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF IWC. FIRST THREE PLAN TO BE MEMBERS BEFORE 31ST MEETING OF IWC. SPAIN HAS PRESENTED FORMAL PAPERS ALREADY AND MAY BECOME MEMBER IN NEAR FUTURE. US PREPARED RESOLUTION CALLING ON ALL NON-MEMBER WHALING NATIONS TO BECOME MEMBERS AND TO ABIDE BY REGULATIONS SET BY THE IWC. THE RESOLUTION PASSED AS WRITTEN.

9. MR. ASGEIRSSON (ICELAND) AND MR. MERCER (CANADA) WERE ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION RESPECTIVELY. MRS. FOX (USA) WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WHICH IS CHAIRED BY VICE CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION).

10. 1979 QUOTAS - QUOTAS FOR 1979 TOTAL 16,298, A DECREASE OF OVER 7,000 FROM 1978. HOWEVER, QUOTAS FOR NORTH PACIFIC SPERM WHALES NOT YET SET, SO TOTAL EXPECTED TO INCREASE. SPECIAL MEETING OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (PROBABLY IN LAJOLLA, CALIFORNIA) AND COMMISSION (PROBABLY IN TOKYO) SET FOR DECEMBER, 1978, PRIMARILY TO REVIEW ALL DATA AND ANALYSES FOR SPERM WHALES IN NORTH PACIFIC AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND TO

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SET QUOTAS FOR NORTH PACIFIC.

11. BUDGET APPROVED AT 132,436 POUNDS WAS ALMOST DOUBLE THAT FOR 1979 FINANCIAL YEAR. HOWEVER, NOT AT ALL SURE THAT ALL COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THEIR REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS BUDGET IS VERY MINIMUM TO OPERATE COMMISSION AND SECRETARY ASKED TO PREPARE . SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBLE SAVINGS AND ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AGREED TO AT THIS MEETING. BUDGET WILL BE REVIEWED AT DECEMBER SPECIAL MEETING.

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